

Over the years, there have been concerns about the arbitrary nature of speaker points and the different scales that are used. Speaker points are a useful tool for making observations about debater quality across the pool, but it can be difficult for some judges to evaluate what scale they should utilize. Speaker points matter if you think of them as a language that is mutually understandable across the judging pool. Although some of us may join you in complaining about “speaker point inflation” as judges these days give out 29s like candy and 1-25 speaker points have been rendered obsolete, ultimately what matters is that there is a community understanding for what a certain score means.

After a variety of conversations, it was suggested that publishing some data regarding the prior year’s state tournament speaker points at certain tournament benchmarks would be helpful. Our intent in creating this is solely informational. Every judge should feel free to give whatever speaker points they desire. However, if you find this information interesting or relevant, we present an analysis of speaker points from the 2021-2022 Wisconsin Debate Tournament.

Varsity Policy Debate				
	Highest Points	Lowest Points	Average	Median
Top Speaker	29.50	28.50	29.08	29.25
Students in Finals	29.50	26.00	28.17	28.25
Students who were in the first elimination round but did not win	29.00	25.00	27.80	28.00
Students who went 3-3	30.00	26.00	28.05	28.00
Students who had a losing record	30.00	25.00	27.63	27.50
Novice Policy Debate				
	Highest Points	Lowest Points	Average	Median
Top Speaker	30.00	27.50	28.90	29.00
Top Team	30.00	27.00	28.30	28.25
Students who had a winning record	30.00	27.00	28.38	28.50
Students who had a losing record	30.00	27.00	28.15	28.00
JV Lincoln Douglas Debate				
	Highest Points	Lowest Points	Average	Median
Top Speaker	30.00	26.00	28.67	29.25
Students in Finals	30.00	26.00	28.42	29.00
Students who were in the first elimination round but did not win	30.00	24.50	27.83	28.00
Students who went 3-3	29.00	25.00	28.00	28.50
Students who had a losing record	29.50	24.00	26.90	27.00
Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate				
	Highest Points	Lowest Points	Average	Median
Top Speaker	30.00	28.00	28.92	28.50
Students in Finals	30.00	26.00	28.63	28.50
Students who were in the first elimination round but did not win	30.00	27.50	28.75	29.00
Students who went 3-3	29.50	26.00	28.08	28.00
Students who had a losing record	30.00	27.00	28.03	28.00
JV Public Forum Debate				
	Highest Points	Lowest Points	Average	Median
Top Speaker	30.00	28.00	29.17	29.25
Students in Finals	29.00	27.00	28.15	28.00
Students who were in the first elimination round but did not win	29.00	27.00	28.19	28.00
Students who went 3-3	30.00	24.00	27.65	28.00
Students who had a losing record	29.50	23.00	27.06	27.00
Varsity Public Forum Debate				
	Highest Points	Lowest Points	Average	Median
Top Speaker	30.00	28.50	29.50	29.50
Students in Finals	30.00	26.50	29.02	29.00
Students who were in the first elimination round but did not win	30.00	27.00	28.80	29.00
Students who went 3-3	30.00	20.00	28.08	28.00
Students who had a losing record	30.00	25.00	27.88	28.00